

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 AGRE-00
/097 W

-----117793 230213Z /64

R 221625Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8216

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1272

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: GE, PEPR, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY

1. THE GOL RADIO ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 22 THE SIGNING IN EAST BERLIN FEBRUARY 21 BY GOL MINISTER OF COMMERCE WILLIAM DENNIS AND GDR FOREIGN MINISTER OSCAR FISCHER THE FIRST LONG TERM TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOL AND THE GDR. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, THE GDR WILL SUPPLY PORT EQUIPMENT, BUILDING MACHINES, ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, REFRIGERATION ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SYSTEMS. THE

GOL WILL SUPPLY RAW COFFEE, COCOA BEANS AND OTHER PRODUCE. COMMERCE MINISTER DENNIS, WHO IS HEADING A GOL GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATION TO EAST BERLIN, IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT "LIBERIA WANTS TO HAVE CLOSER RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS".

2. IN OCTOBER 1973 THE GOL AND GDR ISSUED A
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COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THEIR INTENTION TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE FIRST GDR AMBASSADOR TO LIBERIA PRESENTED HIS LETTERS OF CREDENCE MAY 22, 1974. THE PRESENT AMBASSADOR, WERNER SCHEDLICH, IS RESIDENT IN GHANA.

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3. COMMENT: THE AGREEMENT APPEARS TO BE
MERELY A LISTING OF PRODUCTES BOTH COUNTRIES HOPE CAN
BE EXCHANGED. IF SO, WITHOUT ANY FINANCIAL INDUCEMENT
OVER AND BEYOND REGULAR COMMERCIAL GAIN, TRADE BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES IS NOT EXPECTED TO DEVELOP BEYOND
THE CURRENT VERY LOW LEVEL. LIBERIA IMPORTED
\$69,578 AND \$88,852 OF EAST GERMAN GOODS IN 1975 AND 1976
RESPECTIVELY. IN BOTH YEARS THERE WERE NO LIBERIAN
EXPORTS TO EAST GERMANY. THUS, THE SIGNING OF THIS
AGREEMENT SEEMS TO BE INTENDED MORE FOR ITS POLITICAL
AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT THAN FOR ANY LITTLE MUTUAL
TRADE THAT MIGHT DEVELOP. END CONFIDENTIAL.
CARTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PEPR, ETRD, GC, LI
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